



# HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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## Messages from the Regions: Harnessing the regional dimension to support post-COVID-19 recovery and accelerate the attainment of the SDGs

*Wednesday, 14 July 2021, 9:00 - 10:30 AM*

### Secretariat Background Note

#### Introduction

The 2030 Agenda stressed the importance of the regional and sub-regional dimensions in the follow-up and review of the Agenda. Since the creation of the HLPF, Regional Forums on Sustainable Development have been organized by the United Nations Regional Commissions to contribute to the forum's preparations. Their importance was recognized in the Political Declaration of the SDG Summit in September 2019.

The session will discuss the findings and recommendations from the Regional Forums on Sustainable Development. It will include interventions by the Ministerial Chairs of the Regional Forums and the Executive Secretaries of the Regional Commissions, followed by an interactive discussion with participants.

The session will take place at a decisive moment of crisis when priorities need to be reshuffled and development gains have to be protected and amplified to help member States recover from the COVID-19 crisis and address structural barriers to prosperity, equality, dignity, sustainability, and resilience. The session will highlight ways in which Regional Commissions are mobilizing regional action and leveraging regional frameworks on the road to 2030 and beyond.

#### Proposed guiding questions

The session will address the following general questions:

- As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact lives and livelihoods across the world, where do the five regions stand in advancing implementation of the SDGs? What are the priorities for action in each region?



*Sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic that promotes the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development: building an inclusive and effective path for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda in the context of the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development*



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- How are the efforts of the Regional Commissions, in collaboration with the UN system, making a difference and impacting development trajectories of the respective regions?
- How can regional work be enhanced? What regional and inter-regional success stories can be highlighted that promote coherence in methodologies and approaches across regions or between regions with common concerns and priorities?

The session will include a short video on the state of progress on the SDGs in the five regions.

## Chair:

- **H.E. Mr. Munir Akram** (Pakistan), President of Economic and Social Council

## Moderator:

- **Ms. Rola Dashti**, Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, and Coordinator of the Regional Commissions

## Chairs of the Regional Forums on Sustainable Development:

- **Ms. Arlette Soudan-Nonault**, Minister of Environment, Sustainable Development and the Congo Basin, Republic of Congo, and Chair of the 7<sup>th</sup> Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development
- **Mr. Faisal Al Ibrahim**, Minister of Economy and Planning, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and Chair of the 2021 Arab Forum for Sustainable Development
- **Mr. Francisco André**, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, Portugal, and **Mr. László Borbély**, State Counsellor to the Prime Minister, Romania, as co-chairs of the 2021 Regional Forum on Sustainable Development for the UNECE Region
- **Ms. Mereseini Rakuita Vuniwaqa**, Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation, Fiji, and Chair of the 8<sup>th</sup> session of the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development
- **Mr. Rodolfo Solano Quirós**, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Worship of Costa Rica, and Chair of the 4<sup>th</sup> session of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development



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## Executive Secretaries of the Regional Commissions, as discussants:

- **Ms. Alicia Bárcena**, Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
- **Ms. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana**, Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
- **Ms. Olga Algayerova**, Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission of Europe
- **Ms. Vera Songwe**, Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa
- **Ms. Rola Dashti**, Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

## Interactive Dialogue “Voices from the regions”

Representatives of member States, regional intergovernmental organizations, regional and sub-regional institutions, academia, private sector and civil society will share examples of regional experiences and interregional cooperation and provide recommendations on how to enhance work at the regional level to accelerate the attainment of the SDGs.



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